

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: GUIDACE FOR MARCH 10, 1978 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING REGARDING TRANSMITTAL OF OIL CARRIER DOCUMENTS TO
COUNCIL

REF: A) STATE 016531; B) PARIS 07840; C) 77 PARIS
14662

1. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT OBJECT TO TRANSMITTAL TO THE
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COUNCIL OF THE TWO DOCUMENTS MENTIONED PARA 1 REF B
(I.E., C(78)16, QUOTE FINAL REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING
PARTY ON MEASURES CONCERNING OIL CARRIERS UNQUOTE, AND
C(78)29, QUOTE RESULTS OF THE IMCO CONFERENCE ON TANKER
SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION UNQUOTE). REGARDING
TWO MATTERS RAISED PARA 2 REF B, DEPARTMENT HAS NO
OBJECTION TO THE COUNCIL'S ADOPTION OF THE WORKING PARTY'S

FINAL REPORT (C(78)16) BUT HAS MIXED REACTIONS TO THE SEVERAL ITEMS TO BE ENTERED IN THE COUNCIL'S MINUTES CONTAINED IN PARA 6 OF C(78)29 AND REPEATED IN PARA 2 REF B. THE US REPRESENTATIVE AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD ADOPT POSITIONS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS/ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE SET FORTH BELOW:

2. ITEMS (A)(I), (A)(III), AND (B) -- US HAS NO OBJECTION;

ITEM (A)(II) -- IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IMCO CONFERENCE ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION (TSPP) ADOPTED THE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE CRUDE OIL WASHING (COW) SYSTEM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO RETROFIT OF SEGREGATED BALLAST - TANKS (RSBT), QUESTION OF EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION SEEMS LARGELY ACADEMIC. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ACADEMIC NATURE OF SUBJECT, DEPARTMENT HAS NO STRONG OBJECTION TO ASKING MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (MTC) TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATENESS OF MEASURES IN THIS AREA. HENCE, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT SEE IT AS PARTICULARLY USEFUL ACTIVITY, IF MAJORITY WISHES TO RETAIN ITEM A(II), USDEL SHOULD GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY. USDEL SHOULD, HOWEVER, STATE FOR THE RECORD THAT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY SMALL RETROFIT AND OTHER COSTS OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY TSPP CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE EXISTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CAN PROVIDE WHATEVER MODEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINANCING IS REQUIRED; HENCE WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MTC EXAMINING THIS QUESTION, WE DOUBT THE NEED FOR ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL FINANCING MACHINERY FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF APPROPRIATE, USDEL MAY DRAW ON FULLER BACKGROUND ON THIS SUBJECT CONTAINED IN PARA 4(A) OF REF A. IN UNLIKELY EVENT MAJORITY DEVELOPS IN FAVOR OF DELETING A(II), USDEL SHOULD SUPPORT MAJORITY BUT SHOULD AVOID PROMINENT ROLE. FYI. PARTICULARLY IF A(II) IS SUPPORTED BY SCANDINAVIANS, WHO GAVE U.S. STRONG SUPPORT AT TSPP CONFERENCE, USDEL SHOULD MAINTAIN LOW POSTURE ON THIS ISSUE. END FYI.

3. REGARDING JAPANESE OBJECTION TO REGIONAL APPLICATION OF MEASURES AGREED TO AT TSPP CONFERENCE, WE ARE UNCLEAR WHAT PROPOSAL JAPANESE OBJECTION REFERS TO. HOWEVER, USG STRONGLY SUPPORTS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY TSPP WHICH URGES ALL GOVERNMENTS TO PUT REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY TSPP CONFERENCE INTO EFFECT WITHOUT WAITING FOR PROTOCOLS TO ENTER INTO FORCE. USG WOULD GENERALLY FAVOR REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH FACILITATED EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF TSPP REQUIREMENTS.

4. FINALLY, CONCERNING THE QUOTE LOWER PRIORITY UNQUOTE MEASURES (SEE PARA 3(III) OF REF C) WHICH THE NORWEGIANS HAVE SUGGESTED THE ORGANIZATION NOW CONSIDER FOR - STUDY, THE US BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE EITHER IMPRACTICAL OR HAVE VERY MARGINAL POTENTIAL FOR REDUCING EXCESS CAPACITY IN THE WORLD TANKER MARKET.

HENCE USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE ANY PROPOSALS TO EXTEND MANDATE OF WORKING PARTY OR TO RECONVENE HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO CONSIDER THESE MEASURES; USG STRONGLY SUPPORTS

STATEMENT IN PARA 4 OF C(78)29 THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENDING WORKING GROUP OR RECONVENING HIGH LEVEL GROUP. HOWEVER, IF THERE IS WIDESPREAD FEELING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(PARTICULARLY ON PART OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORWAY AND SWEDEN WHICH GAVE US STRONG SUPPORT AT TSPP CONFERENCE) THAT QUOTE LOWER PRIORITY UNQUOTE MEASURES SHOULD BE FURTHER CONSIDERED BY EXISTING BODIES OF OECD (E.G., MTC AND WORKING PARTY 6), US DEL SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION IN THESE FORA. VANCE

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